

Jammer Family



The Jammer name came to this area when John Frederick Jammer came to Kawkawlin, Michigan. His father, John Jammer (1830-1919) married Louisa Darling (1837-1927) in Germany in 1858. Their children, born in Germany, were Sophia Maria Bauman (born 1860), John Frederick (born 1870), and Rudolph (born 1876). It was 1886 when John Frederick came here with his parents. In January of 1892, he became a naturalized U.S. citizen. In December of the same year, he married Matilda Wallschlaeger who had come to America in 1885. Their children included: Frederick August (born 1893), Ida (born 1895), Elisa A. (born 1897), Emma Caroline (born 1899), Martha Louise (born 1901), Bertha Regina (born 1904), Herman August (born 1906), Anna (born 1910), and a foster child James Patten (born 1910).

Frederick August Jammer married Katherine Barbara Schnell in 1915 at Zion Lutheran Church in Beaver, Michigan. Their children include Hulda Johanna Spencer, Oscar Carl, Bertha Emma Jacobs, Clara Lupcke, Oswald H., and Frederick. In 1941, prior to Pearl Harbor, Oscar Carl married Clara Spengler at Zion Lutheran Church in Beaver, Michigan.

During World War I and II, Frankenmuth was frequently suspected of being pro-German. A January 1943 issue of the Detroit Free Press had the following to say: *“The great majority of German-Americans are loyal to this country. In some cases they are running up even better scores in the war against Nazism than most non-Germans. Frankenmuth, Michigan, one of the most purely German communities in the country by descent and culture, has at least 90% of its 1,100 people falling within Hitler’s definition of a German. Its stores, newspaper, and local government are studded with German names. German is spoken in the homes, in the largest church, and in familiar greetings on the street.”*

“Yet Frankenmuth has run up one of the most enviable records in the country for per-capita contribution to our war effort. Its citizens spend double the usual 10% of their income on war bonds. They far outstrip the national average in their scrap drives and bond sales, and most of the grown-ups fight actively against Hitler, either in the armed forces, or as farmers and mechanics.”

After serving in the U.S. military from 1942 to 1945, Oscar and his wife Clara brought the Jammer name to Frankenmuth. They eventually purchased a home on N. Gera Road. Oscar worked as a machine operator at Universal Engineering which was the first defense plant to win the Treasury Department’s Bull’s Eye Award in 1942, for its bond sales. Its workers invested 20% of their checks every pay day. In addition, Universal was the only plant of its size to pay for the purchase of a plane for the war effort.

Oscar and Clara had five children: Keith, Kenneth, Oscar and Darlene Bedell.

The family has a 50+ year tradition where everyone comes together to butcher and make sausage. Grandpa Fred Jammer was known to say that, “when you butcher a hog, you can use everything but the squeal”. This event occurs in the month of February. Each generation is assigned a specific job in the butchering and sausage making process and, as they grow older, they move up the ladder. The first generation supervises. The second does the splitting and dressing and learns the special technique to “sticking the pig”. The third generation is in charge of scalding and shaving the hog, grinding the sausage, etc. The fourth generation (the youngsters), must help with stirring the ingredients for the sausages which include pork, blood and liver sausage. It is a tradition which the family hopes will continue for many years.



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